

Cattle egret makes rare stop at local fields and UBC Farm

In the first week of November there have been several sightings of cattle

egrets (Bubulcus ibis), including one in the pasture of Janet and Jack Lloyd-

Walters of Stories Beach and one at UBC farm, at the home of Dave Klassen.

Klassen, who has lived in Australia where the egret is a common resident, was surprised to see one in his backyard, near his Holstein calves. The egret is considered rare to uncommon in B.C., in its winter visitations to the south coast.

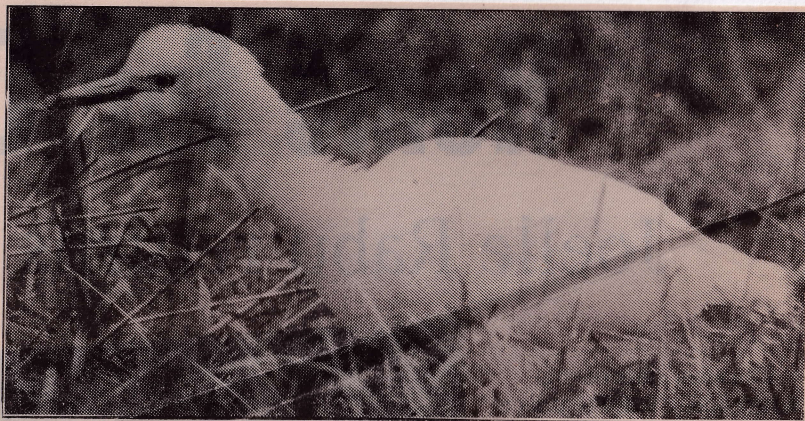
Its presence is a post-breeding dispersal from its breeding grounds in middle and northern U.S.

Ninety-seven per cent of all records are for the period

October through February.

Usually it is solitary in its northern visits and it will associate with domestic stock such as cattle, sheep, horses and even ducks and chickens.

At UBC farm it can sometimes be observed perched on the back of one of the calves or on the back of a horse in a nearby pasture.



Cattle egret hunts for food. Charles Brandt photo

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